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SEMS 2133387

Amax Extractive Research
and Development
COD097144588

RCRA INSPECTION REPORT

INSPECTION DATE: June 9, 1981 FACILITY: Amax Extractive Research
5950 MacIntyre St.
Golden, CO 80401

TYPE: Initial RCRA
Compliance

PARTICIPANTS: Fred C. Hart/EPA EPA ID#: COD097144588
Inspectors

Christine McEnery CONTACT: Mark Peters
Darcy Campbell (303) 279-7636

WEATHER: Sunny, 80°F

Facility Personnel:

Mark Peters, Environmental Coordinator
Chuck Kucera, Corporate Environmental Services Group
Fred Bender, Associate Director of Research & Development
Lisa Wilkerson, Health and Safety

NOTIFICATION: Generator

The inspectors arrived at the facility and presented their credentials to Mark Peters, Chuck Kucera, Fred Bender, and Lisa Wilkerson at 9:00 AM for the prearranged RCRA compliance inspection. The purpose of the inspection was to determine status and compliance of the facility with the regulations governing hazardous wastes under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Amax Extractive Research and Development is a corporate research lab which produces research reports in the minerals area. The company did a re-assessment of their status as a treatment, storage, and disposal facility

after the 1980 amendments were published and then wrote a letter to the EPA to change their status to a generator. Mr. Kucera stated that the facility is exempt from TSD status on the basis of being a mineral processing facility. Most of the wastes generated on site are indigenous to minerals processing although occasionally some wastes which are non-indigenous are generated. The facility sends all their waste to Lowry Landfill through Chemical Waste Management.

The analytical lab generates acidic wastes which are variable in content and quantity depending upon the ore body they are researching. Many different campaigns occur at once which produce many different wastes. The facility personnel use their best engineering judgement and/or EPA toxic tests to determine if the wastes are hazardous. The acidic wastes from the analytical lab are transferred from small plastic buckets (5 gallons) into a 1000 gallon tank where it is neutralized and pumped into 55 gallon containers and picked up by Chemical Waste Management at least once every three months. The organic wastes from the analytical lab are segregated and poured into a 55 gallon drum and are also picked up by Chemical Waste Management. Approximately 2 barrels of organics are accumulated every 3 months according to Mr. Peters.

The metalurgical lab also generates acids and bases which are mixed into the same 1000 gallon tank where the analytical lab wastes are mixed. The combination of the analytical lab wastes and the metalurgical lab wastes are neutralized and then pumped into 55 gallon containers and shipped to Lowry

Landfill. The larger volume of waste from the metalurgical waste is solids such as tailings waste, leach residue and rock slime which are put into 55 gallon containers and disposed of through Chemical Waste Management along with the aqueous lab waste.

The last shipment of waste occurred on April 9, 1981. A total of 48 drums were picked up of which approximately half were aqueous lab waste and half were solid metalurgical waste. The manifests were viewed and appeared complete. A generator checklist was completed and is attached. The facility met all the requirements for a generator, as stated in the May 19, 1981 Federal Register.

A tour of the grounds was conducted to show the inspectors the waste storage area and the 1000 gallon mixing tank. The 55 gallon drums of waste are stored outside in a roped off area. There were approximately 9 barrels of waste oil which will be picked up by Chemical Waste Management. The areas of storage and the 1000 gallon tank are noted on the attached map. The facility has an extensive waste water treatment system which discharges into the POTW. There are four surface impoundments, three which hold the tailings and one which holds the decanted solution. Periodically the settled solids are dredged out, drummed, and sent to Lowry Landfill.

Mr. Peters requested a copy of this report be sent to him. The inspection ended and the inspectors left the facility at 10:50AM.

Christine McEnery 6/29/81
LEAD INSPECTOR: Christine McEnery DATE:

Darcy Campbell 6/29/81
INSPECTOR: Darcy Campbell DATE: